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SOURCE Borba.

SOME MEMBERS ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE MARIBOR SREZ COOPERATIVES

Maribor, 5 August -- A majority of the farm work cooperatives in Maribor Srez have been in existence more than 2 years and have been leaders in the advancement of agriculture in this area. Nonetheless, they still have powerful internal conflicts which are frequently hidden.

Someone in the prez made an analysis showing that 70 percent of the members pledge themselves for the advancement of the cooperative, 2 to 3 percent are on the opposing side, and the remainder vacillate. By their shrewd and pernicious activity in preventing progress in cooperatives, certain people have hoped to show that private ownership is better.

There were principally wealthy farmers, who upon joining the cooperative, attempted to use their former influence in the village to create for themselves the position of "head" of the cooperative. They took the best land for their private plots and usually took more than was prescribed. Frequently no one stood in their way because the presidents of the cooperatives were weak and the administrative councils were not alert. The main purpose of these farmers was to have the cooperative's land cultivated poorly, thus yielding a poor harvest; to have the livestock ill-fed and scrawny, to have the cooperative's machinery and tools uncared for, thus providing them with the excuse of not having proper equipment with which to work the land, etc. They could then begin to whisper that the land was failing in cooperatives, that even drought, hail, floods, and blight had befallen them, and that cooperative members must surely remember how the land yielded when it was privately owned.

This whispering went on in Dobrovo (in Dravska Polje District), Selci, Zamarkova, Zrkovci, and other villages. The whisperers and some vacillating weaklings sought to withdraw from the cooperatives. However, the sincere cooperative members who were in the majority would not permit their cooperative to be thus dismembered.

The wreckers went furthest in the cooperative in Dobrovci. In 1950, potatoes of the cooperative remained in the ground until the beginning of December and would have remained longer had it not been for the help of

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front members from Maribor. But the members of the cooperatives allied with a group of speculators; they did not help the front members but even attempted to prevent them from working. After much effort some potato crates were finally found in the cooperative, but they were soon hidden again and it was necessary to hunt for them.

New sabotage occurred recently. Five hectares of rape which had produced well yielded only 450 kilograms because it was mowed and then left in the field until it dried and began to rot. The 450 kilograms were gathered and the remainder burned, probably to hide the evidence of this sabotage.

Enemies of the cooperative in Dobrovci have not been completely absolved. They have been called to account several times and some have been sentenced by the people's court, but the situation has not improved. They appear to be securely entrenched and must be energetically exposed and removed. This can be done only by another administrative council and a more daring president of the cooperative.

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